

Rooting Through the Legislative Process

Presented by:

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1. Introduction: This presentation will cover six major areas:
 - a. How a bill becomes a law
 - b. Who impacts the legislative process
 - c. An example of how a financial aid-related bill made its way through the legislative process
 - d. Overview of the budget process
 - e. Financial aid-related legislation that have been proposed in the past and that may be proposed again in upcoming legislative sessions
 - f. Resources
2. How a bill becomes a law
 - a. Timeline
 - i. Legislators can pre-file bills starting in July and ending the first day of session
 - ii. Bills filed over the summer are assigned numbers and published on December 2
 - iii. Session starts on the first Wednesday after the first Monday of January – this year, January 7, 2009
 - iv. Shortly after session starts, the Governor delivers the State of the State address
 - v. Legislators get a “spring break” around Easter
 - vi. Each chamber has a deadline after which no more new bills can be combined
 1. Senate: March 1
 2. House: April 1
 - vii. Session ends in mid-May
 - viii. Governor must sign bills within 45 days after they are referred to him/her
 - ix. Unless the bill specifically provides otherwise, new bills become law on August 28
 - b. Process: A graphic representation showing how a bill becomes a law is provided in Appendix A
 - c. Tracking a bill’s progress
 - i. Each bill is available online
 1. HBs are on the House website: www.house.mo.gov → Quick Links → House Bill List
 2. SBs are on the Senate website: www.senate.mo.gov → Session Information → List of 2009 Bills
 - ii. The bill’s website provides information about the bill
 1. The full text of each version of the bill
 2. A summary of the bill
 3. The fiscal note estimating the bill’s fiscal impact
 4. A history of the bill’s movement through the legislative process
 - a. For HBs, click on “Actions”

- b. For SBs, click on “All Actions”
 - c. For information about how to decipher the code the bill’s history is written in, see Appendix B
 - iii. The MDHE’s legislative update provides a more comprehensible summary of the bill’s history
 - 3. Who impacts the legislative process
 - a. Elected officials
 - i. Legislators
 - 1. Representatives
 - a. There are 163 state representatives
 - b. They serve for 2-year terms
 - c. Representatives may serve for no more than 4 full terms
 - 2. Senators
 - a. There are 34 state senators
 - b. They serve for 4-year terms
 - c. Senators may serve for no more than 2 full terms
 - ii. Governor
 - 1. Identifies certain issues and bills as priorities
 - 2. Uses influence to advance those issues and bills
 - iii. State agencies
 - 1. Provide input to governor in creation of administration’s priorities
 - 2. Communicate with legislators about issues of importance to agencies
 - 3. Draft “fiscal notes,” which are estimates of how much a bill will cost to implement
 - iv. Lobbyists
 - 4. Example: HB 1549
 - 5. Overview of the budget process
 - a. Calendar
 - i. August: Institutions submit their proposed budgets to the MDHE
 - ii. September: The Coordinating Board for Higher Education approves the budgets
 - iii. October: The budget is submitted to the Office of Administration (“OA”)
 - iv. November-December: Department staff meet with OA and representatives of the governor’s office
 - v. December: The governor finalizes budget recommendations
 - vi. Mid-January: The governor publicly presents the Executive Budget in connection with the State of the State address
 - vii. January: The governor’s Executive Budget is introduced in bill form – this means that the governor’s budget is the starting point for all budget discussions
 - viii. January-May: Budget bills make their way through the legislative process
 - 1. Budget bills are formally considered by the House first

- a. House Budget Subcommittees first receive testimony about bills and develop recommendations for the House Budget as a whole to consider
During the same time that the House Budget Committee is formally considering budget bills, the Senate Appropriations Committee is informally hearing testimony about the contents of the budget bills
 - b. The House Budget Committee may accept in whole or in part, or reject entirely, the Budget Subcommittees' recommendations
 - c. When a member of the House Budget Committee wants to add something to the bill, they must also find a place to take money out of a bill
 - d. After budget bills are approved by the House Budget Committee, they are considered on the House floor
 2. After the House approves the budget bills, the Senate formally considers them
 - a. The Senate Appropriations Committee
 - b. After the budget bills are approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee, they are considered on the Senate floor
 3. If the versions passed by the House and the Senate are identical, they are sent to the governor
 4. If the versions passed by the House and the Senate are different, they go to conference
 - a. Conference committee includes Senators and Representatives
 - b. Committee members try to compromise and reach consensus
 5. Both chamber must approve the conference committee substitute
 6. Budget bills are then sent to the governor
 - a. Governor can sign or veto bills
 - b. For budget bills, governor can also use the line-item veto to eliminate funding for specific programs or projects
6. Resources
- a. Complete information about all higher education-related legislation presented in a user-friendly format: MDHE's weekly legislative update
 - b. Listen to live debate
 - i. House: www.house.mo.gov → click on Live Debate Audio
 - ii. Senate: www.senate.mo.gov → click on the Senate link under Live Debate

Appendix A

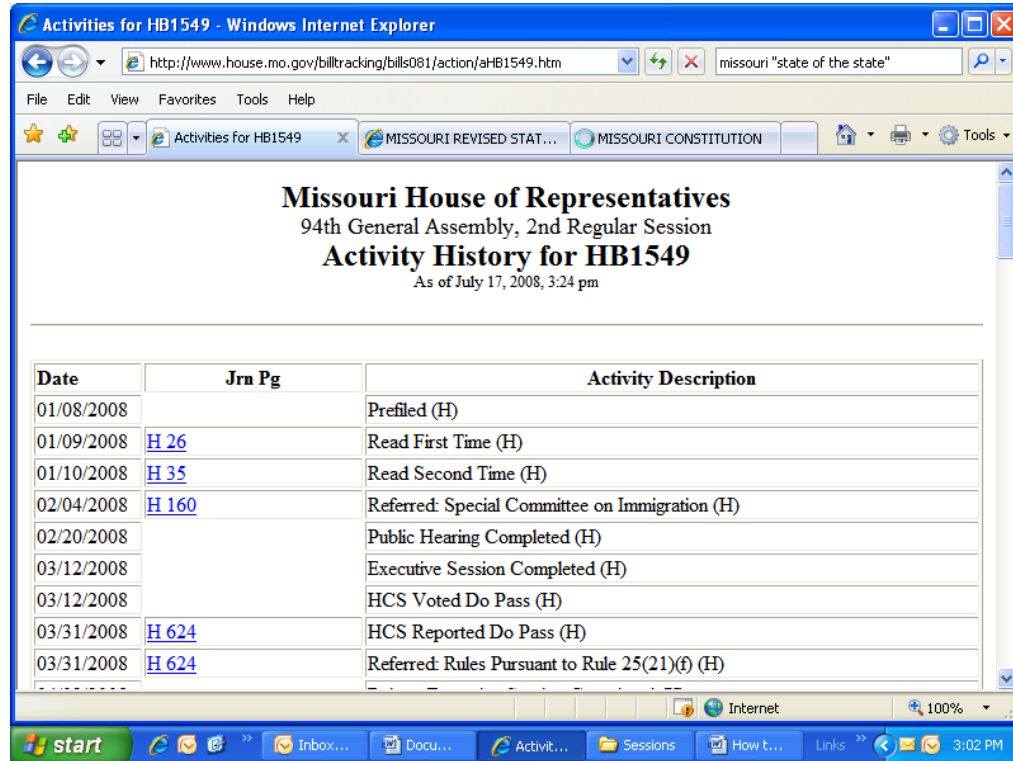
How a Bill Becomes a Law

<http://www.house.mo.gov/billtracking/info/habbl.pdf>

Appendix B

Deciphering the Code a Bill's History is Written In

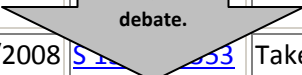
When you click on "Actions" or "All Actions," you will get a screen that looks like this:



In English, the history of this bill is:

Date	Jrn Pg	Activity Description	Translation
01/08/2008		Prefiled (H)	The bill was prefiled on January 8. The (H) indicates that the action occurred in the House.
01/09/2008	H 26	Read First Time (H)	The bill was first read on January 9.
01/10/2008	H 35	Read Second Time (H)	The bill was second read on January 10.
02/04/2008	H 160	Referred: Special Committee on Immigration (H)	The bill was referred to the House Special Committee on Immigration ("House committee") on February 4.
02/20/2008		Public Hearing Completed (H)	The House committee conducted a public hearing on the bill on February 20.
03/12/2008		Executive Session Completed (H)	The House committee held an executive session on the bill, during which they discussed whether to vote the bill out of committee, on March 12.
03/12/2008		HCS Voted Do Pass (H)	The House Committee voted "do pass" on a committee

			substitute ("HCS"). This means that they voted an amended version of the original bill out of committee.
03/31/2008	H 624	HCS Reported Do Pass (H)	The House committee reported do pass on the committee substitute.
03/31/2008	H 624	Referred: Rules Pursuant to Rule 25(21)(f) (H)	The bill was referred to the House Rules Committee, which acts as a gatekeeper to floor debate. The Rules Committee may (1) report do pass with no limitation on the amount of time the bill will be debated on the floor or on the number of amendments that may be proposed, (2) report do pass with time limits for floor debate, or (3) send the bill back to the committee that voted do pass on it.
04/02/2008		Rules - Executive Session Completed (H)	The Rules Committee held an executive session on the bill, during which they discussed whether to take one of the three actions described above.
04/02/2008		Rules - Voted Do Pass (H)	The Rules Committee voted do pass.
04/02/2008	H 751	Rules - Reported Do Pass (H)	The Rules Committee reported do pass.
04/08/2008	H 817 - 818	Taken Up for Perfection (H)	The bill was taken up for initial debate on the House floor.
04/08/2008	H 818	Laid Over (H)	The bill was "laid over" after debate began, meaning that debate ceased but that the bill could be taken up again at a later date.
04/09/2008	H 826	Taken Up for Perfection (H)	The next day the bill was taken up for perfection by the entire House.
04/09/2008	H 827 - 828	HCS Adopted (H)	The House adopted the House Committee Substitute.
04/09/2008	H 826 - 828	Perfected (H)	The House perfected the House Committee Substitute.
04/10/2008	H 880 - 881	Third Read and Passed (H) AYES: 124 NOES: 16 PRESENT: 5	The bill was third read and passed. At this stage, the bill is said to have been "passed by the House."
04/14/2008	S 794	Reported to the Senate and First Read (S)	The bill was reported to the Senate and first read.
04/16/2008	S 820	Second Rd/Refer: Pensions, Veteran Affairs & General Law(S)	The bill was second read and referred to the Senate Pensions, Veterans Affairs & General Laws Committee ("Senate committee")
04/17/2008		Public Hearing Scheduled (S) WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2008, 1:00PM, SENATE	The Senate committee scheduled the public hearing of the bill Wednesday, April 23.
04/23/2008		Public Hearing Held (S)	The Senate committee conducted a public hearing on the bill.
04/30/2008		Executive Session Held (S)	The Senate committee held an executive session on the bill, during which they discussed whether to vote the bill

			out of committee.
		VOTED DO PASS	The Senate committee voted do pass on the bill.
05/01/2008	S 1042	Reported Do Pass (S)	The Senate committee reported do pass.
05/05/2008	S 1095	Placed on Informal Calendar (S)	The bill was placed on the Informal Senate Calendar.
05/13/2008	S 1324 - 1325	Taken Up for Third Reading (S)	The whole Senate took the bill up for third reading.
05/13/2008	S 1325	Senate Substitute Offered (S)	A Senate substitute was offered.
05/13/2008	S 1325	Placed on Informal Calendar (S) SS PENDING	The bill was placed on the informal calendar, with adoption of the Senate substitute pending.
05/13/2008	S 1339 - 1344	Taken Up for Third Reading (S)	The bill was again taken up for third reading.
05/13/2008	<div>  <p>This journal entry contains the full text of each amendment proposed during floor debate.</p> </div>	Placed on Informal Calendar (S)	The bill was again placed on the informal calendar.
		SA 4, SA 5, SA 6, SA 7, SA 8, SA 9 ADOPTED/SS,	Six separate amendments ("SAs") were proposed and adopted to the Senate substitute.
		SA 10 PENDING	One amendment was proposed but had not yet been adopted or rejected.
05/13/2008	S 1353	Taken Up for Third Reading (S)	The bill was again taken up for third reading.
05/13/2008	S 1353	SS Adopted (S) SA 4, SA 5, SA 6, SA 7, SA 8, SA 9, SSA 1 FOR SA 10, SA 11, SA 17, SA 19, SA 20 ADOPTED	The Senate substitute was adopted with eleven amendments.
05/13/2008	S 1353	Referred: Governmental Accountability and Fisc Oversight (S)	The bill approved by the full Senate was referred to the Senate Governmental Accountability and Fiscal Oversight ("GAFO") Committee. GAFO must approve all bills that involve the loss or expenditure of \$100,000 or more.
05/14/2008		Public Hearing Scheduled (S)	GAFO hearing scheduled
05/15/2008		Executive Session Held (S)	GAFO held an executive session, during which they considered whether to recommend passage of the bill or to return it to committee.
		VOTED DO PASS	GAFO voted do pass.
05/15/2008	S 1441	Reported Do Pass (S)	GAFO reported to pass.
05/15/2008	S 1442	Third Read and Passed with Amendments (S) SA 4, SA 5, SA 6, SA 7, SA 8, SA 9, SSA 1 FOR SA 10, SA 11, SA 17, SA 19, SA 20 ADOPTED YEAS: 27 NAYS: 7	The Senate substitute as amended during previous debate was third read and passed by the Senate.
05/15/2008	S 1442	Emergency Clause Adopted (S) YEAS: 27 NAYS: 7	Certain portions of the bill contained an "emergency clause," which means that they would take effect as soon as the bill was signed.

05/15/2008	H 1753 - 1757	Reported to the House with... (S) SS AS AMENDED	The amended version of the bill was reported to the House.
05/15/2008	H 1787 - 1790 / S 1573	House Refuses to Concur, Requests Sen. Recede-Grant Conf.(H)	The House refused to concur with the Senate's changes and requested that the Senate "recede" to the version passed by the House or grant a conference on the bill.
05/15/2008	H 1812 / S 1573	Senate Refuses to Recede, Grants Conference (S)	The Senate refused to recede and granted a conference on the bill.
05/15/2008	H 1815 / S 1595	House Conference Committee Appointed (H): REPRESENTATIVES ONDER, NOLTE, NIEVES, TALBOY AND WILDBERGER	The House appointed the members listed to the conference committee.
05/15/2008	H 1878 / S 1574	Senate Conference Committee Appointed (S): SENATORS RUPP, CROWELL, ENGLER, GREEN AND MCKENNA	The Senate appointed the members listed to the conference committee.
05/15/2008	H 1881 - 1882	House Submits Conference Committee Report (H)	The conference committee report is submitted to the House.
05/15/2008	H 1881 - 1882	Conference Committee Substitute (H)	The conference committee substitute is submitted to the House.
05/16/2008	H 1899 - 1901 / S 1678	House Adopts Conference Committee Report (H) AYES: 133 NOES: 11	The House adopts the conference committee report.
05/16/2008	H 1899 - 1901 / S 1678	House Adopts Conference Committee Substitute (H)	The House adopts the conference committee substitute.
05/16/2008	H 1899 - 1902 / S 1678	Third Read and Passed (H) AYES: 136 NOES: 12	The conference committee substitute is third read and passed by the House.
05/16/2008	S 1679	Senate Submits Conference Committee Report (S)	The conference committee report is submitted to the Senate.
05/16/2008	S 1679	Conference Committee Substitute (S)	The conference committee substitute is submitted to the Senate.
05/16/2008	H 2040 / S 1679 - 1680	Senate Adopts Conference Committee Report (S) YEAS: 27 NAYS: 7	The Senate adopts the conference committee report.
05/16/2008	H 2040 / S 1679 - 1680	Senate Adopts Conference Committee Substitute (S)	The Senate adopts the conference committee substitute.
05/16/2008	H 2040 / S 1679 - 1680	Truly Agreed To and Finally Passed	The conference committee substitute is truly agreed and finally passed.

		YEAS: 27 NAYS: 7	
05/29/2008	H 2049	Signed by House Speaker(H)	The bill is signed by the Speaker of the House.
05/29/2008	H 2050 / S 1739	Signed by President Pro Tem (S)	The bill is signed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate.
05/29/2008	H 2050	Delivered to Governor	The bill is delivered to the Governor.
07/07/2008		Approved by Governor (G)	The bill is approved by the Governor.
07/07/2008		Delivered to Secretary of State (G)	The bill is delivered to the Secretary of State.